

Feb. 14 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1994

friendship, and I don't think that's going to change. But the relationship has to change. There are elements in Japanese society and elements in the Japanese political system who very much want the relationship to change. So we're

just going to have to see what our options are and proceed.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:42 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan *February 14, 1994*

Bosnia

Q. President Nazarbayev, do you support NATO's decision to threaten the Bosnian Serbs with air strikes in case they don't remove all their artillery from the hills surrounding Sarajevo?

President Nazarbayev. Despite the fact that Kazakhstan is well removed from those events by a great distance, I still believe we all as members of the U.N. respect the decision taken by the Security Council.

Q. Mr. President, is there a gap between the U.N. and the United States on what steps need to be taken in order to launch air strikes?

President Clinton. I don't have any reason to believe that there is. Keep in mind the Secretary-General asked NATO to take the action we took and made it clear that—we made it clear that we do not want to take that action

unless we could follow through on it, that is, unless the conditions were met that we would take the action we said. And he agreed with that. So I have no reason to believe that there is any difference of opinion.

Q. Do you sense that the Serbs are beginning to cooperate?

President Clinton. I think so. Again, let me say that the larger issue is whether we can move toward a reasonable peace agreement quickly after establishing a safe zone around Sarajevo. But we're just going to have to see. There's still a few more days left before the time runs out.

NOTE: The exchange began at 11:35 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

The President's News Conference With President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan *February 14, 1994*

President Clinton. Good afternoon. I'm delighted to welcome President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan to the White House today. This was our first meeting, and it was a very good one.

As I said, this was our first meeting, and it was a very good one. Over the last year I asked both Vice President Gore and Secretary of State Christopher to visit Kazakhstan during their trips to the region. Both told me how impressed they were by the great progress

Kazakhstan has achieved under the strong leadership of President Nazarbayev.

While there are many aspects to the widening relationship between our two nations, one of the most important is our work in nuclear non-proliferation. When the Soviet Union dissolved in 1991, there were four of the New Independent States, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan, who had Soviet strategic nuclear weapons on their territory. One of my highest national security priorities has been to ensure